Biotech Research Centre in Kerala

1848. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority of Kerala had submitted a project during May, 2008 to Department of Biotechnology for establishing Biotech Research Centre (BRC) in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of above project;

(d) what steps will be taken in affirmative to above submission regarding BRC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir, a proposal for establishment of Biotech Research Centre in Kerala submitted by Kerala Biotechnology Commission, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment was received in the Department of Biotechnology in June, 2008.

(b) The major objective of the proposal was to establish a centre of excellence in biotechnology which provides state-of-the-art equipment and expertise to support, accelerate research process and services and training in biotechnology.

(c) to (e) The proposal has been examined in the Department. Since there are neither deliverables nor a well defined focus, the Department is unable to fund the same. Moreover, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) at Thiruvananthapuram has been taken over by the Department and objectives outlined for the proposed centre are already being addressed by RGCB.

CSIR sanctioning fund on soft term to R and D companies

†1849. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has sanctioned funds on soft terms to various companies for research and development purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning of loans;

(d) the number of companies which have been provided with loans alongwith the term of loans and the name of project;

(e) the present status of the recovery of loans;

(f) whether any company has turned sick after the disbursement of loan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is implementing the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Programme on behalf of Government of India. Under this programme, CSIR provides funds for undertaking well defined R and D projects. To pursue the projects, institutions in public domain are given grant-in-aid and industry partners are given soft loan with 3% interest.

(b) to (d) The details of loan released to various companies along with the name of projects are given in Statement-I. (*See* below) The loan is repayable in a maximum of 10 equal yearly instalments, starting six months after closure of the projects.

(c) Both 'push' and 'pull' type of projects are evolved under NMITLI, which are appropriately named as (i) Nationally Evolved Projects (NEP) and (ii) Industry Originated Projects (IOP). The step-wise procedures for these two categories are given at Statement-II. (*See* below)

(e) Only three companies have not been able to repay due amount of loan in time *viz.* Encore Software, Bangalore, Lensel Optics Pvt. Ltd., Pune and Divinet, Pune. These companies have requested for deferment of loan repayment. Remaining companies are paying their instalments.

(f) No, Sir. No company has turned sick after the disbursement of loan.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of loans released to various companies

Sl. No.	Project Name	Party Name	Loan released
1	2	3	4
1	5 and 25kw decentralized power packs	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	50.0000
2	Latent M. Tuberculosis: New Targets, Drug Delivery system, bio-enhancers and therapeutics	Lupin Ltd., Mumbai	1016.0000
3	Nano-material catalysts and associated process technology for alkylation/acylation/ nitration of well identified industrial chemicals, pre-reforming of hydrocarbons and sulphur removal (<50 ppm) from petroleum fuels	Sud-Chemie India Ltd., New Delhi	95.0000
4	Development of versatile, portable software for bioinformatics and Development of Linux cluster version of Bio-suite	TCS, Hyderabad TCS, Hyderabad Jalaja Techn. Bang. FTIL, Secund'bad	780.0000 174.0000 24.0000 40.0000

1	2	3	4
5.	Development of an Oral herbal formulation for treatment of Psoriasis a clinical and scientific challenge	Lupin Ltd., Mumbai	1430.4600
6.	Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule — Lysostaphin	BBIL, Hyderabad	560.6200
	Phase II	BBIL, Hyderabad	77.2000
7.	Microbiological conversion of Erythromycin to Clarithromycin and other novel biologically active molecules	Alembic Ltd., Vadodara	28.5000
8.	Novel molecular diagnostics for eye diseases and low vision enhancement devices	LOPL, Pune Xcyton Diagnostic, Bangalore	14.7500 69.5600
9.	Recombinant approach to produce a-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast DHA	Avestha Gengraine, Bangalore	303.5000
10.	A cost effective Simple Office Computing (Sofcomp) platform to replace PC	Encore Software, Bangalore	320.0000
11.	A PC based high-end 3D visualization platform for computational biology — 'Darshee'	Strand genomics, Bangalore	186.4000
12.	Improved Genome Annotation Through a Combination of Machine Learning and Experimental Methods: *Plasmodium falciparum*	TCS, Hyderabad	291.0000
13.	Development of Novel Fungicides	RRC, Bangalore	188.2900
14.	Novel Expression System	Biocon, Bangalore Shantha Biotech, Hyd.	33.1246 56.0700
15.	Development of Globally competitive 'Triple-Play' Broadband Technology	Divinet, Pune	938.7500
16.	Market seeding of SofComp and Mobilis to develop wide-ranging applications as well as increase	Encore Software, Bangalore	537.0000
17.	Development of an integrated micro PCR system with in-situ Identification	bigtech, Bangalore	550.0000
18.	Novel formulation for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis — clinical studies	Lupin Ltd., Mumbai	213.0000

1	2	3	4
19.	Development of high throughput marker assisted selection systems for improvement of drought tolerance and fibre quality related traits in cotton	JK Agricultural, Hyderabad	549.9000
20.	Novel method for development of B-type Natriuretic peptide (BNP) for diagnosis and treatment of congestive heart failure	Virchow Biotech, Hyd.	298.1000
21.	Development of Next Generation Plasma Display Technology and a 50 inch High Definition (HD) TV prototype	Samtel Color, Ghaz.	1946.0000
22.	Chipset for wireless sensor	Virtual wire tech, ND	322.0000
23.	Lactic acid and lactic acid based polymers	Godavari, Mumbai	210.0000
24.	Design and development of cushion bonded organic ceramic clutch discs	Clutch Auto	1060.0000
25.	Novel therapy for management of sepsis	Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Ah	1465.0000
26.	A syndromic approach to diagnosis of infections: development of dna macro-chips for simultaneous detection of pathogens causing aes (Acute Encephalitic Syndrome) and septicaemia	Xcyton Diagnostic, Bangalore	114.4400
27.	Distributed video surveillance system	Mind Tree Ltd., Bangalore	180.0600
28.	Development and characterization of an indigenous vaccine for Johne's disease	Biovet, Bangalore	110.7200
29.	Development of rice resistant to the fungal blast disease	Metahelix Life, Bangalore	31.7900
	Total		14265.2346

Statement-II

Steps-wise procedure for developing the Nationally Evolved Projects (NEP) under NMITLI

I. National Consultations

(i) Wide-spread and wide-ranging national consultations are held to identify the potential niche ideas. The consultations are usually done through letters from DG, CSIR to eminent personalities in all walks of life.

(ii) The suggestions so received are compiled into a database.

II. Selection of suggestions/ideas

The two-tier mechanism as given below:—

First Level:

(i) A Screening Committee comprising of experts including senior officers from Government departments with wide exposure over different disciplines shortlist the suggestions/ideas for their conformance to NMITLI objectives;

(ii) The Screening Committee's recommendations are placed to DG, CSIR for his consideration, review and confirmation; and

(iii) The short listed suggestions/ideas are then categorized into different areas, *e.g.* Agriculture, Biotechnology, Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Materials, Information and Communication Technology *etc.*

Second Level:

(i) Separate Expert Groups are constituted by DG, CSIR to consider the short listed suggestions/ideas for selecting those of the few ideas that could provide an advantage to India. Each of the Expert Group has 4-5 experts from the relevant areas;

(ii) The selected suggestions/ideas are then put up to DG, CSIR for his consideration, review and approval; and

(iii) Selected ideas are then communicated to all the contributors.

In addition, CSIR proactively scout for project ideas through interaction with industry and researchers. This is done by organizing interactive meetings with researchers in specific areas to catalyze potential project ideas. The selected ideas are then taken through a brainstorming meeting and the concepts are placed before DG, CSIR for his consideration and approval. These concepts are then developed into projects following the subsequent steps.

III. Preparation of Project Proposals

(i) For each selected idea, a Specialist Expert Group (Champions Group) is commissioned to evolve the selected idea into a project. The Group comprises of three to four experts in the relevant area with at least one of them being from industry, to provide an industrial perspective to the project. The Champions Group is provided a free hand in zeroing in on the niche segment within the selected area, developing it into a project, selecting the (best) partners, project time frame and budget estimates *etc.*

(ii) Towards evolving the project, the Champions Group, besides having internal meetings among themselves, have at least one meeting with the domain specific researchers from academia, institutions and industry.

It is important to recognize that participation in NEP category of NMITLI projects is not by application, but by invitation. Further, individuals who suggested an area may or may not be part of the research project.

IV. Involvement of Industrial Partners

Some of the approaches among others that are followed to enlist the industry partners are:—

(i) Industrial partners are invited for the brainstorming meeting at the time of evolving the projects;

(ii) Where the industry participation in the brainstorming meeting is minimal or nil, CSIR specially addresses letters to the firms in that industry sector for soliciting their interest;

(iii) TNBD Division at CSIR independently also interacts with the relevant industries and solicit their participation in the project; and

(iv) Firms that show interest in participating in the programme are enlisted in the projects.

V. Approvals:

(i) The final project as developed is submitted for consideration of a High-Powered Committee (HPC), which is constituted by DG, CSIR. In facilitating the HPC to arrive at a decision, the Champions are invited to make a presentation to the HPC; and

(ii) The project proposal along with HPC comments/recommendations including the funding aspect is then put up to DG, CSIR/GB(SFC)/EFC as appropriate for final consideration and approval.

VI. Disbursal of Funds

A MOU/legal agreement is entered among the partners and funds are then released to implement the project.

Step-wise procedure for developing Industry Originated Projects (IOP) under NMITLI

I. Soliciting conceptual ideas/proposals

(i) Through press advertisement in leading national newspapers inviting conceptual proposals from Indian industry under the scheme; and

(ii) Letters from CSIR are addressed to a large number of Indian industries inviting conceptual ideas/proposals for support under the scheme.

II. Selection of conceptual proposals

First level:—

(i) Compilation of the conceptual ideas/proposals received within the specified time; and

(ii) Prima facie evaluation of the conceptual ideas/proposals for their conformance to NMITLI objectives by a committee of experts drawn from different fields (set up by DG, CSIR).

Second level:—

(i) Assessment of short listed conceptual ideas/proposals by a committee of eminent technical domain experts (minimum of 3 experts) rated on 1 to 10 scale for further consideration and examination; and

(ii) Selection of top rated one or two ideas based on average rating with a minimum rating of 5) in each broad area.

III. Development of conceptual ideas into projects:

Development of selected idea/conceptual proposal into project proposal with the guidance of national experts and concerned industry partner. CSIR identifies and provides these experts for helping the industry to build the proposal.

IV. Approvals

(i) The final project proposal as developed is submitted to the High-Powered Committee for consideration and recommendation; and

(ii) The project proposal along with HPC recommendations is then put up to DG, CSIR/SFC(GB)/EFC, as appropriate for final consideration and approval.

V. Disbursal of Funds:

An agreement is entered among the partners and then funds are released to partners for implementation of the project.

Integrated Textile Park at Palakkad

1850. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala during April, 2008 had submitted a representation for approval/sanction of the Integrated Textile Park at Palakkad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether approval will be given for the above with Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) of Kerala alone as the promoter initially and to divest its stake to private investors on completion of the basic infrastructure required for the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) A request was received from the Government of Kerala to sanction one textiles park project in Palakkad, Kerala under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP). It was proposed that Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) alone would be the promoter of the park initially as it would be able to attract private investors after initial infrastructure is laid in place.